

CHEMICAL INVESTIGATION OF *HORSFIELDIA IRYAGHEDHI* (MYRISTICACEAE)

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In continuing our chemical studies on medicinal and related plants of Sri Lanka (Gunatilaka *et al.*, 1979, 1980) we have investigated the chemical constituents of the seeds of *Horsfieldia iryaghedhi* (Gaertn.) Warb. (= *Myristica horsfieldia*, *M. iryaghedhi*), a plant endemic to Sri Lanka. In a previous chemical study of the seeds of *H. iryaghedhi*, Kitagawa *et al.* (1972) reported the occurrence of d-asarinin [(2,6-di(3,4-methylenedioxy phenyl)-3,7-dioxabicyclo(3,3,0)octane)] and dodecanoylphloroglucinol in the seeds of *H. iryaghedhi*.

Hot methanolic extract of the seeds of *H. iryaghedhi* on concentration deposited a solid which consisted chiefly of trimyristin (glyceryl trimyristate). From the remainder were isolated myristic acid, sitosterol, d-asarinin, dodecanoylphloroglucinol, an antimicrobial agent named dihydrocubebin (Dwama-Babu *et al.*, 1976) and a new natural lignan, 2-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxy phenyl)-6-(3,4-methylenedioxy phenyl)-3,7-dioxabicyclo (3,3,0) octane, which on methylation afforded fargesin (Kakisawa *et al.*, 1972).

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